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EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

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⑤④ Unidirectional fluid valve.

⑤⑦ The exhalation valve (14) of a respiratory face mask (10), while taking up only a small area, can afford extraordinarily low pressure drop for easy breathing if constructed with a valve seat (16) having a seal edge (18) that defines an orifice (21) and also forms a parabola in the plane bisecting the mask (10). Preferably the seal edge (18) forms a rectangle as viewed against the direction of composite fluid flow (34) through the valve (14), and a flexible flap (24) is attached to a bridge (19) across the center of the orifice at the apex of said parabola, each end of the flap (24) being free to be lifted to allow fluid to flow through the valve (14).

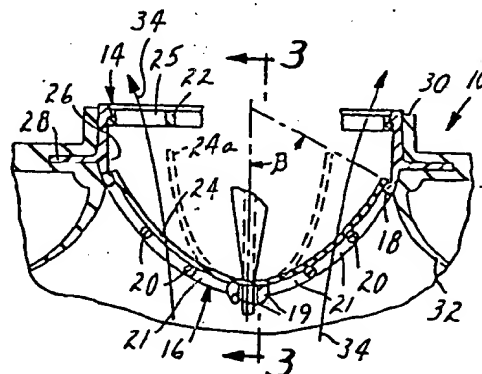


FIG. 2



European Patent
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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application number

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			EP 88302510.8
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl. 4)
A	AT - B - 197 648 (J.E.H. WALDEN-MAIER) * Claims; fig. 1 *	1,12, 18	A 62 B 18/10
A	DE - A1 - 2 924 172 (VEB KOMBINAT MEDIZIN + LABORTECHNIK) * Fig. 1,2 *	1,12, 18	
A	GB - A - 2 182 420 (BEECHER) * Fig. 1; abstract *	1,12, 18	
A	EP - A2 - 0 170 007 (ALFMEIER) * Claim 1; fig. 1 *	1,12, 18	
D,A	US - A - 771 327 (SCHMIDT) * Totality *	1,12, 18	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl. 4)
A	US - A - 3 807 444 (FORTUNE) * Fig. 1 *	1,12, 18	A 62 B 9/00 A 62 B 18/00 F 16 K 15/00
D,A	US - A - 4 414 973 (MATHESON et al.) * Totality *	1,12, 18	
D,A	US - A - 4 630 604 (MONTESI) * Totality *	1,12, 18	
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search VIENNA		Date of completion of the search 22-03-1989	Examiner BAUMANN
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS			
X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	